



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Kathleen Clarke
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

801-538-5340

801-359-3940 (Fax)

801-538-7223 (TDD)

April 3, 2000

Richard Manus, Area Manager
Bureau of Lands Management
125 South 500 West
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Gob Vent Holes (Exploration), Plateau Mining Corporation, Willow Creek Mine,
ACT/007/038-AM00B, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Manus:

The Division has reviewed the application from Plateau Mining Corporation for eleven gob vent borehole sites (GVB) on BLM land. Upon review, here are the recommendations:

1) Page 14 of the Plateau submittal indicates the following; "GVBs will be left open until after their useful life is finished." It is felt that this statement should be revised to include this wording or something similar: "but capped and locked until Plateau Mining determines that their venting capabilities are needed in-Mine. At that time, Plateau will inform BLM and the Division that the status of the GVB has gone active."

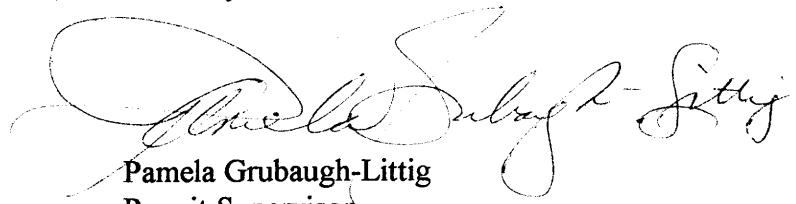
It is also felt that the phrase "useful life is finished" is unclear. Criteria should be established by concurrence of the interested parties when useful life ends. This should automatically initiate plugging procedures.

Plateau has permitted numerous gob vent boreholes on both BLM and private land over the last two years. It is not known if the BLM is requiring the permittee to monitor the status of these holes. In consideration of the fact that many holes are in place, and that hundreds more may be drilled during the life of the Mine, a plan to monitor the status of each is recommended. It is recommended that monitoring records of this plan be forwarded to the BLM and the Division at least bi-annually.

2) Quoting page 21 of Plateau's submittal, "If the topsoil is stockpiled for lengthy periods of time, the soils will be.....". This is unclear and leaves too much uncertainty for not preserving this resource.. It is suggested that a defined time period be established in order to more clearly define the efforts which will be taken to stabilize this resource.

If you have any questions about these comments, please call Pete Hess or me.

Sincerely,



Pamela Grubaugh-Littig
Permit Supervisor

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cc: Price Field Office
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